



## **Arlington Tree Committee**

*Date:* Wednesday, October 9, 2019, 7:30 pm

*Location:* Lyons Hearing Room, Arlington Town Hall

*Participants:* Members -- Eliza Burden and Mary Ellen Aronow (Co-Chairs), Steve Moore, Keith Schnebly, Susan Stamps, Phil Tedesco, Ed Trembly, Mara Vatz, Tree Warden -- Tim Lecuivre

### **Meeting Minutes**

1. *Approve August and September Meeting Minutes* August minutes APPROVED after minor edit to remove section about reason for trees removed. September minutes APPROVED.
2. *Committee's mission and method.* Eliza and Mary Ellen restated our mission and reminded Committee members that part of our success over the past 8 years has been due to our positive approach and willingness to collaborate with the DPW rather than being adversarial. They would like to ensure that we continue this measured approach.
3. *Publicity/Community Outreach*
  - Eliza started an Instagram account for ATC
  - Susan will follow up to see that ATC is invited to submit Town Annual Report
  - Discussed putting a blurb on EAB in the notes section of the Advocate
  - New Covenant School brochures – reprint. Mara to email pdf to MEA
  - Bylaw – it was suggested that we update letter to builders to announce changes. We sent out our initial letter when the bylaw was first passed.
  - Visit Community Tree Canopy tree sites for reporting on success; write article. Keith will visit these sites and take pictures in E. Arlington; Ed will do the heights.
  - Recommended trees list was updated on website. Tim reviewed and updated the list. Tim will add some conifers to add to the list.
4. *DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update*
  - a. Tim attended tree warden education course and heard from attendees that Arlington is on the forefront of what tree committees and residents want.
  - b. Tree hearing(s). Nothing on the docket right now.
  - c. Tree Bylaw activity

- Susan reported that the Attorney General approved amendments to Tree Bylaw on Sept 27. Town Council posted and then amendments went into effect on October 7.
- A Tree Plan for a property on Brantwood Rd was approved just a day before amendments went into effect. We believe the 'lookback' rule may be applied retroactively, so trees cut down in the last year will be subject to the new law.
- Kensington Rd follow up Two projects—one at 15 Kensington and one at 17 Kensington. A linden street tree across from this property had to be removed this year even though last year it was considered viable. The tree was just taken down (by the private contractor—since they offered to do it).
- Discussion of Critical Root Zone and other guidelines to follow during construction to protect trees. The Tree plan has to show critical root zone (CRZ) of each protected tree and public shade tree that will be protected from damage during site work. We decided CRZ=1 foot of protection for 1 inch DBH. If contractors aren't protecting trees, the owner is subject to fines of \$300/day (section 5).
- Need to post amended Bylaw at Town Offices
- d. Fall Planting update. Planting of 150 trees starts Nov 7 and should be finished by Thanksgiving. They will take 100 from the queue of requests, and plant an extra 50 in tree zone 3. Tim noted that there's a trend in tree requests: tree zone 4 is most requested (already heavily wooded). Tree zone 5 is least requested. Also, 4 trees will be going in behind Robbins Library at Whittemore Robbins House.
- e. Gas leaks update. Tim has put in multiple claims, representatives from gas companies come to look at it, and they negotiate. They've looked at all the claims that he's put in, Tim's waiting to hear back. DPW did receive 14K from the claim at Window on the Mystic.
- f. Gas Leaks task force: Bob Ackley talked to them in August about a proposal for going up and down all streets to identify leaks near trees. He would charge \$100/leak. His proposal added up to \$50K. Adam talked to Bob to ask him to do a smaller pilot project. Susan and Tim discussed which trees to prioritize.
- g. Tim noted that a Tennessee pipeline (a high pressure line that runs from Oklahoma to Arlington) owns the right of way and 15 ft on each side. They can clearcut the right of way, even in conservation land. This is happening now.

## 5. New Business

- Construction guidelines to be developed for Tim to handout to people submitting tree plans. **Keith, Eliza and MEA will collaborate on this.**
- We need an effective method to plant trees by the DPW in the vicinity of projects covered by the Tree Bylaw now that the new Bylaw provisions are in effect.
- ATC continues to update Inventory with more accurate placement of trees out of place - need more volunteers. Keith is going to try to keep working on this.
- Mill street Sycamore. Even if a portion of the tree is growing in public land, it is

now considered a public shade tree. So the large Sycamore on Mill Street is a public shade tree. It's on the pruning list to trim deadwood, tuck in the canopy, no more than 20% because of conservation rule. It's also on Conservation Commission land because of proximity to Mill brook. We are going to try to get it registered as a heritage tree. **Tim will call DCR to see if it will qualify.**

- Crosby Street has no sidewalk, wants new trees. Working on getting grants for planting pits. It costs \$1K to create a planting pit. The grant would target hot spots, like Warren, Broadway, etc, so Crosby does not qualify at this time. Luca might be able to come present to ATC.
- Removal of tree stakes on older trees needs to be done.
- ATC work with Planning Dept for next round of proposed building/density changes . No zoning things proposed yet, but they will let Keith know. Other initiatives: sustainable transportation and net zero.

**Next meeting:** November 13, 2019